

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 and 21-27 remain in this application. Claims 11-20 have been cancelled. Claims 21-27 have been added. Claims 1, 5, and 7-9 have been amended to correct informalities.

B. DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 1-9 were provisionally rejected under the judicial doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in light of Co-pending Application No. 10/294,273, now U.S. Patent 6,861,640. The present application and the Co-Pending Application are commonly owned. Once there is indication of allowable subject matter, and if the rejection remains applicable, Applicant will file a terminal disclaimer pursuant to 37 CFR 1.321(c).

B. CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 10, 11 and 13-18 have been rejected by the examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,742,901 issued to Kimura et al. Claims 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura. Claims 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,674,561 issued to Ohnishi et al. in view of Kimura.

Claims 10-20 have been cancelled. New claims 21-27 recite limitations not taught or disclosed by Kumura or Ohnishi and are thus allowable over the cited prior art.

C. CONCLUSION

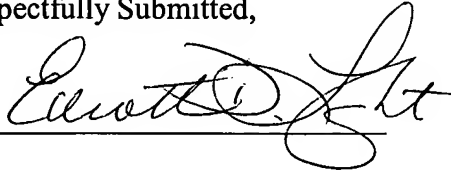
Should any further questions arise concerning this application or in the event the above

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amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone interview. Please contact Jon Roberts at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott D. Light", written over a horizontal line.

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